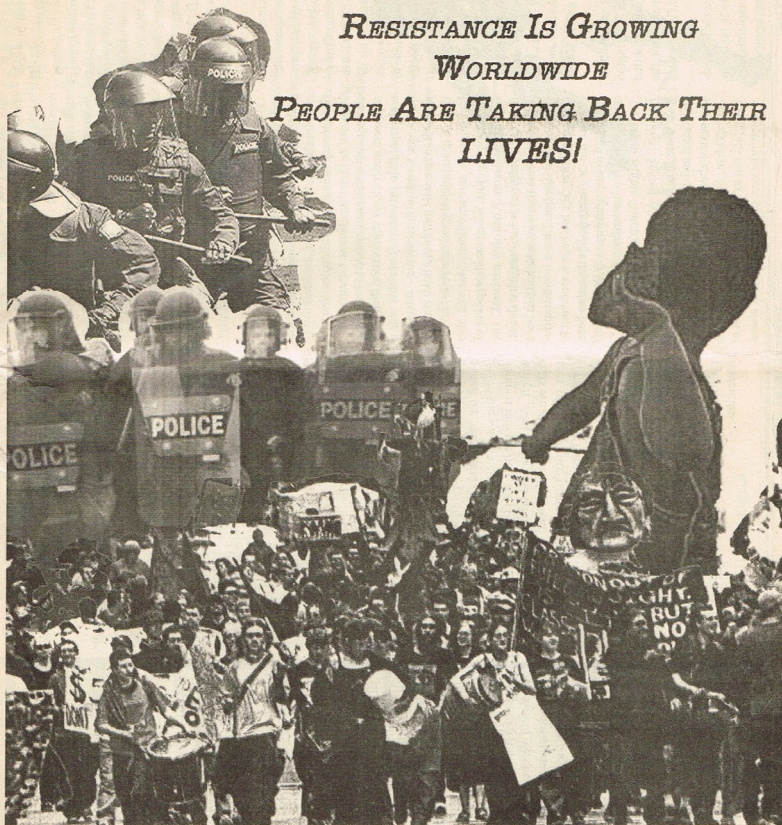




# ACTIVE TRANSFORMATION

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3 JULY-AUGUST 2000 FREE  
A DIRECT ACTION ANARCHIST NEWSPAPER

RESISTANCE IS GROWING  
WORLDWIDE  
PEOPLE ARE TAKING BACK THEIR  
LIVES!



**INSIDE:**

IMF/ World Bank Shutdown, May Day, Anarchism in Eugene, International News Briefs, RNC, Prague, DNC, Anarchist Football, OAS Shutdown, Immigration News Briefs, and More



# Active Transformation

Volume 3, Issue 3 July-August 2000 Free

A Direct Action Anarchist Newspaper

## Inside:



A16 in D.C.



May Day Around The World



OAS Shutdown



## International News Briefs



and more....

## OAS: GET OUT OF TOWN

by:  
Monica

At the stroke of midnight on June 1st members of the welcome center committee of the Detroit OAS Shutdown Coalition began setting up the welcome center in the hall of the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Detroit. We assumed people would begin coming in Friday night or Saturday morning, but all our literature said we would be starting on the first and we wanted to be prepared. People from the metro Detroit area began trickling in throughout the day on Thursday and Friday, but as we expected no one from out of town. Despite the media hype of "10 to 20,000 roving white activists... descending on Detroit to smash the mostly Black city", we knew people were going to try to get to Windsor first, because that's where the action was going to be. We also knew that, thanks to police and media lies, we were in for a really interesting time to say the least. We were not worried about people in the surrounding communities; These were our communities too and we know our neighbors. Food Not Bombs served in some of these communities, and people were usually willing to hear us out.

We were worried about the police and the FBI; the FBI had already been harassing a some of the Detroit organizers and the Detroit City Council had passed laws against masks and hoods. The city spent 6 million dollars preparing and the Detroit Police are known for their brutality and murder. But we weren't going to let anything stop us from making our point.

Our first action took place on Friday night and was attended entirely by local metro Detroiters sporting loan ranger masks.

This was a Critical Mass down Jefferson Avenue which got started at 5pm and had made it about a

block and a half down Jefferson when the gang squad took action. Police cars hit a few of the bikers and one cop reached out of his car window grabbing a biker by her backpack and pulling her backward. The bikers were thrown against cars, walls - whatever was near by - and all were treated roughly while a few were beaten. Twenty people were arrested for wearing masks, disorderly conduct or interfering with an officer and all of their bikes were confiscated. The last of the arrestees were released by 6 pm the following day, however their bikes have yet to be returned.

### DIRECT ACTION

Saturday was our day for Community Building Through Direct Action. The plan was to get people to volunteer to plant gardens, paint homes, clean yards for the

elderly, clean up parks, etc. Unfortunately, not many people were in town yet and people were still in jail, making these projects difficult to pull off.

Difficult, but not impossible. The painting of houses for transient women was done, flowers were planted later in the weekend and a bridge at Belle Isle with two holes in it large enough for a small child to fall through was repaired on Sunday. Food Not Bombs fed activists and anyone else who was hungry every day.

### ANTI-POLICE BRUTALITY MARCH

On June 3rd we had already set up a anti-police brutality demo. We had set this up weeks in advance, in the belief that the police would

continued on page 4



revellers at June 4th

## Nigeria Rocked By General Strike

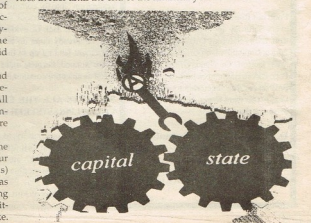
by:  
Jena

### LAGOS, NIGERIA

For seven days the Nigerian economy was halted by a general strike in protest of rise in the price of fuel. From June 2 through June 5 the usually auto-congested streets of Lagos were empty and by the final day of the strike only one gas station remained open. Many people were walking or biking to their destinations and others, who chose to drive in spite of the strike, were forced off the road. The government announced a 50% increase in the prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene shortly after announcing a rise in the minimum wage for state employees, which would affect less than 4% of the workforce. However, the government's tactics did not fool the workers of Nigeria; protests erupted all over the southwest region. Students and workers erected barricades in the streets and prevented the circulation of commercial vehicles. All government offices and other public services, including banks, post offices, and hospitals, were completely shut down.

Three days after the government announced the rate increase, the president of the Nigerian Labour Congress (the umbrella group of trade unions) called for a general strike and a boycott of all gas stations that charged the new price. The following day the trade unions led a procession around cities, leading workers out to join the general strike.

By the fifth day of the strike, the government offered to cut the prices of petroleum and diesel and return the price of kerosene to the original rate, but the unions refused, insisting upon a total cancellation of the 50% price hike. At least three students were killed after a bus driver refused to let the students commandeer his vehicle to transport the students to a demonstration. Police shot several more students at a demonstration. After a week a civil unrest, the Nigerian Senate voted unanimously to revoke the price hikes and called for no further price rises in fuel until the end of the financial year.





# Active Transformation

Published by the  
Active Transformation  
Collectives. Subscriptions are  
available for 1 year (6 issues) Domestic \$6, N. America \$10, World \$12. To  
distribute in your area send \$5 for 20  
issues. Back issues \$0.55 per issue

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## Reclaim Earth Day, Reclaim Our Communities!

On April 22nd over 40 people gathered  
at Grand Circus Park for Earth Day. The  
event was called by the Pink Panther  
Project in an attempt to reclaim the day  
from more liberal forces. Banners were  
hung on the edge of the park along  
Woodward, food was served at the  
fountain and people displayed their  
puppets and banged on their  
drums. It was a truly festive event.  
After a brief speech people took their  
message into the streets. This band of  
people, puppets and drums, criss-  
crossed across downtown much to the  
aggravation of local cops. People were  
hip to our message of reclaiming our  
communities from the  
corporations, the cops and the politicians  
and some people even joined in  
our march.

At the end of what seemed like a mile  
long march, we started to relax back in  
Grand Circus Park. But the cops who had  
the duty of following our festival  
couldn't let the day end on a high note.  
Although Grand Circus Park is normally  
left empty and vacant, except for the  
occasional suburbanite crossing though  
it to get to Comerica Park, the cops were  
always thought that this was because no  
one hangs out downtown. The cops  
eluded us into the real reason: it is against  
the law for people to hang out in parks  
together without getting city approval  
first. So since we didn't have a permit to  
sit on the grass we were supposed to  
leave. The thing was  
we couldn't figure that all the people  
who go down to Belle Isle to play  
frisbee, have family reunions, have Bar-  
B-Qs, etc. went down to the City-County  
building to get a permit before hand.  
This harassment was more political in  
nature than the cops just enforcing the  
law. So we didn't budge. We sat and  
talked and hungout.

Until a participant in the day's event that  
was skateboarding around the park and  
got tackled by a cop. People jumped up  
and rushed the cops. Two more cop cars  
were in waiting and screamed up.  
People who had Copwatch training  
jumped right in getting police badge  
numbers, taking pictures, etc. In the end  
they arrested this guy for skateboarding  
and took him downtown. By the end of  
the night he was out on bail.

Food not Bombs (FnB) continues to serve  
every Saturday and Sunday in metro De-  
troit. Every Saturday FnB serves from 12-  
2pm at Capital Park on Griswold in down-  
town Detroit. On Sunday FnB serves at  
Pope Park in Hamtramck from 3PM to 5PM.  
FnB serves free vegetarian food to every-  
one, if you want to get involved show up  
at one of the servings.

Detroit Active Transformation  
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Detroit, MI 48211  
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## eugene: one year later

by Shaun

June 18th 1999 was the first day of international  
action against global capitalism. Things were rather tame  
for most of the street parties in the U.S. with the exception of  
that in Eugene, Oregon where police fired teargas in an at-  
tempt to disperse a five hour long march. Numerous win-  
dows were broken during the event and ordinary working  
people had their cars damaged just for being in the wrong  
place. Twenty people were arrested for their part in the  
demonstrations and protestor Rob Thaxton received a 7-  
year prison term for throwing a rock at a cop.

This year a "historical re-enactment" of last year's  
event was planned as the finale to Eugene Active Existence,  
a seven week long conference, and Chaos Days, a week-  
long puppet festival. Police stepped up patrols in the  
day before June 18th in the Whiteaker neighborhood by  
harassing those who looked like punks or anarchists.

On the Saturday night before the re-enactment, 41  
people were arrested for marching from the University of  
Oregon campus through downtown to the Lane County Jail.  
They had just finished watching a video about the WTO  
demonstrations in Seattle when they decided to head over  
to the jail to support Free and Critter, who had been arrested  
the day before. The marchers were surrounded by riot police  
at the jail and brutally arrested for "unlawful assembly".  
Speculators, including Copwatch and local media, attempted  
to witness the arrests but were blocked at short distance  
away by police.

On Sunday June 18th around 300 people gathered  
in Washington-Jefferson Park to mark theiversary. A  
puppet show re-enacted last year's "riot" and people  
smashed a torso-sized puppet of a cop. People participated  
in a speak-out and made a  
banner in support of Rob  
Thaxton. Later in the  
evening about 100 people  
marched and were at-  
tacked by police with  
"beanbag" shotgun  
rounds and tear gas.  
Police drove their squad  
cars across the grass of  
the park and cleared  
streets with stern trooper  
type tactics. 22 people  
were arrested.



Craig Marshall (Critter) #1340996

### "FREE" AND "CRITTER" INDICTED ON 10 COUNTS EACH

On June 23, Jeffrey "Free" Luers and Craig "Crit-  
ter" Marshall were indicted on nine felony counts and one  
misdemeanor by a Lane County grand jury in Eugene. The  
charges were placed on the "defendants acting together  
with others as yet unnamed", ensuring a continuous "in-  
vestigation" into the community they want to intimidate into  
hiding. There are serious suspicions about the motives of  
the state, the lack of evidence, and the media smear job  
they've already done on both this case and the anarchist  
movement leading up to this case. Please don't let us be  
isolated, because many of us feel we are being tar-  
geted as an entire community.

### THIS FITS ALL THE ELEMENTS OF A CLASSIC CONTEMPORARY FRAME-UP

Why would someone try to blowup their own neighbor-  
hood??? Read about their 6/16/00 arrests: Jeffrey Luers, 21,  
and Craig Marshall, 27, are accused of the attempted arson  
of the gas tanker sometime on the evening of May 26 or in  
the early hours of May 27. They also were charged with  
setting fire to three pickup trucks at Romania Chevrolet on  
June 16, which caused about \$40,000 in damage.

On June 16th at 1:30 AM, Free and Critter were stopped by Spring-  
field Police, for a "routine traffic violation". The car they were driving in  
had a headlight out. When their licenses were called in, the Eugene Police  
Department, who arrested Free a night earlier for videotaping EPD officers  
while they harassed punks, ordered them to be held until they could get  
there. After being detained for two hours, the EPD showed up and the two  
were detained until 8 AM, at which time they were transported to the Lane  
County Jail and booked on charges of Criminal Mischief and Arson 1. The  
EPD told media the next day that they were being held on suspicion of an  
arson, which resulted in \$40,000 of property damage, that had occurred at  
the time of their arrest at a car dealership in Eugene. The police reported  
that the car the two were driving was followed from the scene of the crime  
to Springfield where the car was pulled over. The next day the EPD ob-  
tained a warrant from a judge to search Free's residence for specific com-  
mon household items, including empty plastic containers, sponges, in-  
cense sticks, matches, rubber bands, paint, gasoline, and correspondence  
to both of them. Another resident was detained for 2 hours and ques-  
tioned, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) was  
identified at the scene.

On June 19, unidentified agents visited a local activist household  
looking for three "dangerous terrorists". Surveillance of that house and  
others, by both the EPD and now FBI, has become more common. Known  
anarchists have been followed and the Growers' Market Building has been  
under almost constant surveillance by EPD officers.

A week later Free and Critter's original charges were trumped up  
to felonies and one misdemeanor. A County Grand Jury indicted them on  
Friday, June 23. The charges that were not related to the car dealership fire  
were pertaining to a suspicious fire that never ignited at an oil company in  
the Whiteaker neighborhood - a scenario that would have posed great  
danger to the neighborhood and all of Free and Critter's closest friends.  
Both activists have been visible and active in fastest protection campaigns,  
local copwatch activities, and projects like  
Food Not Bombs, cooperative child care,  
and self-defense for women. They were  
both known to the EPD as activists. Cur-  
rently, they have no bail, and could face  
up to 86 years in prison. They have pled  
not guilty to all the charges, and will have  
a pre-trial hearing on July 28 at 3:30 pm.

FOR INFORMATION ON  
FREE AND CRITTER, CONTACT  
THE FREE, CRITTER DEFENSE TEAM  
541-343-8548

### WRITE TO FREE AND CRITTER!

Jeffrey Luers (Free) #1306729  
101 W. 5th Street/Eugene, Oregon 97401

101 W. 5th Street/Eugene, Oregon 97401

Written correspondence, including photocopied materials with no staples,  
are admitted in as mail. Books must be sent in brand new, and must be sent  
FROM THE PUBLISHER. THEY REALLY WANT BOOKS, especially Jef-  
frey (Free), so if you are a publisher, please mail them in. The jail has  
ultimate discretion over what books are allowed in.

### OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO:

1) Organize a benefit and/or donate money for their legal defense (they may  
go with private lawyers if they can find one), their jail fund for commissary  
(the only place they can get veggie food), stamps and collect calls to jail  
support, so they can receive moral support from friends.

Please send money to: Free and Critter Fund  
454 Willamette St. #205 Eugene, Oregon 974012)

Write letters to the editor to the Oregonian ([www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian](http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian)), and the Eugene Register-Guard ([www.register-guard.com](http://www.register-guard.com)), both  
of which have run scathing editorials and incriminating news stories about  
Free and Critter AND the anarchist community. Please be thoughtful about  
what you write. Remember that potential jurors read these papers.  
2) Call the jail to demand they be given vegetarian meals (541) 682-3860

# Anarchist! Get Organized!

a discussion of A16, the by Steve

Tens of thousands of people mobilized in Washington D.C. on April 16th to protest against the meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB). Among these protests were about 1500 anarchists loosely organized in the Revolutionary Anti-Capitalist Block, which was called by the NorthEastern Federation of Anarchist Communists (NEFAC). This article is not meant to be an overview of A16, but a critical look at how the anarchist movement can move forward.

The Black Block was an incredible force in DC. It was a roving force of over a thousand people dressed in black, with gas masks, etc. On Sunday the Black Block moved around the area cordoned off by the police alternating between helping defend civil disobedience activists from police attack, to trying to break through police barricades, to building our own barricades and trying to draw police outside their perimeter to weaken it. The following day (Monday) very few of the civil disobedience folks showed up because of a decision by the spokescouncil (civil disobedience consensus decision making body) to come down later. The anarchists who organized separately got downtown and got beat down. Many of us were beaten, and a lot of us took arrests.

What follows is not an attempt to discredit our efforts. It was a powerful and inspiring couple of days. I feel it is important to always analyze our actions and be self-critical, and try to move forward, advancing our movement. The State has used Seattle as an excuse to beef up police forces all over the country. In many ways Seattle caught us off-guard, and we will pay the price for it if we don't become better organized.

The main weakness of the Black Block in DC was that clear goals were not elaborated in a strategic way and tactical leadership was not developed to coordinate our actions. By leadership I don't mean any sort of authority, but some coordination beside the call of the mob. We were being led around DC by any and everybody. All someone would do is make a call loud enough, and the Black Block would be in motion. We were often lead around by Direct Action Network (DAN) organizers of the civil disobedience tactical people, for lack of our own. We were therefore used to assist in their strategy, which was doomed from the get go, because we had none of our own.

The DAN strategy was the same as it was in Seattle, which the DC police learned how to police. Our only chance at disrupting the IMF/WB meetings was with drawing the police out of their security perimeter, therefore weakening it and allowing civil disobedience people to break through the barriers. This needs to be kept in mind as we approach the party conventions this summer. Philadelphia is especially ripe for this new strategy, since the convention is not happening in a business center. Demonstrations should be planned all over the city to draw police all over the place.

On Monday the event culminated in the ultimate anti-climax, an armed civil disobedience. The civil disobe-

black block and beyond dience folks arranged with police to allow a few people to protest for a couple minutes closer to where the meetings were happening, where they would then be arrested. The CD strategy needed arrests. Our movement should try to avoid this kind of stuff as often as possible. While this is pretty critical of the DAN/CD strategy, it is so in hindsight. This is the same strategy that got needed in shutting down the WTO ministerial in Seattle. And, while we didn't shut down the IMF/WB meetings, we did shut down 90 blocks of the American government on tax day - so we should be empowered by their fear of us!

The root of the lack of strategy problem is a general problem within the North American anarchist movement. We get caught up in tactical thinking without establishing clear goals. We need to elaborate how our actions today fit into a plan that leads to the destruction of the state and capitalism, white supremacy and patriarchy. Moving away from strictly tactical thinking toward political goals and long term strategy needs to be a priority for the anarchist movement. No longer can we justify a moralistic approach to the latest outrage - running around like chickens with their heads cut off. We need to prioritize developing the political unity of our affinity groups and collectives, as well as developing regional federations and starting the process of developing the political principles that they will be based around (which will be easier if we have made some headway in our local groups).

The NorthEastern Federation of Anarchist Communists (NEFAC) is a good example of doing this. They have prioritized developing the political principles they are federated around. The strategies that we develop in our collectives and networks will never be blueprints set in stone. They will be documents in motion, constantly being challenged and adapted. But without a specific elaboration of what we are working toward and how we plan to get there, we will always end up making bad decisions. If we just assume everyone is on the same page, we will find out otherwise really quick when shit gets critical.

Developing regional anarchist federations and networks is a great step for our movement. We should start getting these things going all over the continent. We should also prioritize developing these across national borders, which NEFAC has also done with northeastern Canada. Some of the errors of Love and Rage were that it tried to cover too much space too soon, and that it was based too much on individual membership, instead of collective membership. We need to keep these in mind as we start to develop these projects.

One of the benefits of Love and Rage was that it provided a forum among a lot of people to have a lot of political discussion and try to develop strategy in a collective way. This, along with mutual aid and security, could be the priorities of the regional anarchist federations. These regional federations could also form the basis for tactical leadership at demonstrations. Let me first give one example why we need tactical

teams at large demos. In DC the Black Block amorously made the decision to try to drive a dumpster through one of the police lines. The people in front with the dumpster ended up getting abandoned by the other half of the Black Block who were persuaded by the voice of the moment to move elsewhere. The people up front were in a critical confrontation with police when they were abandoned. This could be avoided if the Black Block had a decision making system that slowed down decision making long enough for the block to stay together. With this in mind we must remember that the chaotic, decentralized nature of our organization is what makes us hard to police. We must maximize the benefits of decentralized leadership, without establishing permanent leaders and targets.

Here is a proposal to consider for developing tactical teams for demos. Delegates from each collective in the regional federation where the action is happening would form the tactical team. Delegates from other regional federations could also be a part of the tactical team. Communications between the tactical team and collectives, affinity groups, runners, etc. could be established via radio. The delegates would be recallable by their collectives if problems arose, and as long as clear goals are elaborated ahead of time with broader participation, the tactical team should be able to make informed decisions. An effort should be made to rotate delegates so that everyone develops the ability. People with less experience should be given the chance to represent their collectives in less critical situations, where they can become more comfortable with it.

The reality is that liberal politics will not lead to an end to economic exploitation, racism, and sexism. Anarchism offers a truly radical alternative. Only a radical critique that links the oppressive nature of global capitalism to the police state at home has a chance of diversifying the movement against global capitalism. In order for the most oppressed people here to get involved the movement must offer the possibility of changing their lives for the better. A vision of what "winning" would look like must be elaborated if people are going to take the risk with tremendous social upheaval, which is what we are calling for.

We cannot afford to give the old anarchist excuse that "the people will decide after the revolution" how this or that will work. We must have plans and ideas for things as diverse as transportation, schooling, crime prevention, and criminal justice. People don't want to hear simple solutions to complex questions, that only enforces people's opinions of us as naive. We need practical examples of what we are fighting for. People can respond to examples better than unusual theory. While we understand that we will not determine the shape of things to come, when the system critically fails someone needs to be there with anti-authoritarian suggestions for how to run all sorts of things. If we are not prepared for that we can assume others will be prepared to build up the state or a new state.



## OAS: Get Out, Continued

play their role in the weekend. The same role they always play, that of a brutal force to maintain the status quo. We didn't know we would be so right.

After the bike riding arrests on Friday, and how roughed up people got, an anti-police brutality demo in the heart of downtown seemed like a suicide mission. We marched passing hundreds of cops who all were told that we were terrorists and that we had chemical agents ready to burn their skin off. The scene was intense.

But we watched our Ps and Qs and kept the march going lively. In the middle of the march, about 150 people were singing and chanting against police aggression and our point was made beautifully. This is where the Archer administration started to look like idiots and we knew that the weekend was ours if we stood up and took it.

### The Plan

At our attempted spoke meeting Saturday night it was apparent that we did not have the numbers for the desired J4 direct action. Only 50 people were in from out of town and there were going to be 4,000 cops out just for us. We decided that being that the actual OAS meeting wasn't even in Detroit and our numbers were obviously going to be small, that we should join in with the community march, maybe go off on our own march afterward and have a picnic and play soccer that afternoon on Belle Isle.

One advantage of this plan was that we could really show the ridiculousness of spending 6 million dollars to quell a peaceful protest and expose the nature of the "Anarchist Navy".

### J4 Joke Or The Wrecked

The police infiltrators must have had some difficulty with our sense of humor, because after weeks of discussing forming an ANARCHIST NAVY (possibly made up of rowboats) to get us to Windsor—each discussion of which was followed by howls of laughter, we got some hilarious information. Windsor created a no protest zone 100 yards into the Detroit River off of Windsor. The U.S. Coast Guard would also be in the river with water cannons ready to repel any one who got too close to the edge. As if this wasn't enough, the Windsor media reported that we would be launching the Anarchist Navy on June 6th!

### The \$5 Million March

At about 11:00 am on June 4th about 40 Anarchists and other anti-capitalists left the welcome center to march to Hart Plaza. We marched to the beats put forth by the Anti-Fascist Drum and Flag Corps (later referred to as the Anarchist Navy Drum and Flag Corps) carrying signs and banners, chanting and singing. Everyone seemed to be in a festive mood, we were determined to have a successful demonstra-

tion no matter what obstacles lay ahead. As we marched on the sidewalks, obeying all traffic signals, we began to sing 6 million dollars to the police, later asking them 'what about the schools?' and 'where are all the violent protesters?' We gained more and more people along the way and were received with cheers from the community marchers at Hart Plaza as we came in drumming, singing, and dancing. Once things calmed down a little and people finished socializing, the speakers began.

Jason, a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) said, "We are not selling bread, we are agitating. We are not voting for any politicians, we want a change in how things are done. We are not selling bread, we are giving away yeast! We are agitating for a new world!"

"(S)omebody said that the City County Building was the potential target of terrorism, but let me tell you what it really is, it is the...HOME of terrorism."

"(S)omebody said that the City County Building was the potential target of terrorism, but let me tell you what it really is, it is the...HOME of terrorism."

"It has just recently been announced that in Detroit police kill more citizens than anywhere else in this country. We have known this because we have lived through it," said Arnetta, also from the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality.

These speeches were followed by the permitted march. We were only permitted to march from Hart Plaza

to Kennedy Square, about two blocks, but we could do it as many times as we wanted. We had a choice between this and a march of our own design on the sidewalks following all traffic signals. We had decided to chose this one in the hopes that it would give the police less of an opportunity to attack the march with the excuse of stopping Anarchists from doing one thing or another, with the results of hurting community members. We didn't want to do anything that might put community members in jeopardy. I'm sure this insanely short march route was meant to put a major damper on our day, but it didn't work. With puppets, drums, black and red flags, banners and our voices we marched in circles demanding that they 'clean up this mess, stop the OAS' and singing 'solidarity forever'. We finally marched where we wanted, where we looked across the river to cheer on the Windsor protests. At one point an American flag was burned and people threw smaller flags and dollar bills into the fire. After the demonstration we proceeded to Belle Isle where we ate, held a press conference, manded a badge and played soccer. All in all it was a pretty successful day.

### Cop Watch in Full Effect

On Monday we all discussed the fact that we were really concerned about all the cops being sent into the

neighborhoods of Detroit to harass residents. So, some people decided to go out that night and do Cop Watch (Video tape cops in action in an attempt to prevent police brutality. It has been very successful in other cities). Not surprisingly, those doing the Cop Watching soon became the targets of the police. They were illegally searched and their video tapes were confiscated. The legal observer was told to leave the area while someone was being illegally searched. He, of course, refused and was arrested for interfering with a police officer.

### J6 PUPPET PARADE! PRESS CONFERENCE

On June 6 we held a puppet parade from Kennedy Square to the Spirit of Detroit, where we held a press conference. The parade was very festive and included a puppet of the earth, a big cardboard boat and people carrying smaller green paper boats (the whole Anarchist fleet was out there). Those who had been arrested for riding their bikes carried cardboard bikes and wore signs that said 'the cops stole my bike'. And of course the drum and flag corps was present. We chanted and sang as we marched and passed out literature to those we passed by. At the press conference people told their stories of police brutality and repression and City Council Person Mary Ann Mahaffey compared the Archer administration to Pinochet.

### OVERALL

Although it is true Detroit was not another Seattle or DC, it is important that we realize that it was a success. We showed that in the event that we don't have the numbers, or can't get across the border to shut down the meetings at hand—we can still give the state a good punch in the eye!

The people of the City of Detroit will not soon forget that the Archer administration spent \$5 million on a peaceful march where the majority of the arrests were for bike riding. Nor will the small businesses forget how much business they lost due to false police and media hype. They will not allow this to happen again.

At the same time we will all remember that we were able to pull off a 700 person march in Detroit—something that just doesn't happen here. A march comprised both of radical activists and non activist community members; a march comprised primarily of Detroiters. We will also strive to maintain the ties we made in building for this event—and we did make a lot of ties. We brought members of the Anarchist community much closer together well also bringing in other anti-capitalists.

We worked within our communities, with churches and others to build a coalition broader than anything we have been successful in building in the past. Unfortunately the march was still very white, but we plan to continue building bridges and making ties to correct this problem in the near future.

Special thanks goes out to the UU Church and workers, because if it weren't for their open arms, we would have no doubt been raided.



**Detroit Critical Mass #1**  
15 seconds on our bikes for 15 hours in jail

By: Wenita

June 1 through 7 was a tough time to hang with Detroit Anarchists, because first you had to get past the Detroit Gang Squad. On Friday June 2, they chose to flex their muscles and viciously rip Critical Mass participants off bicycles, just 15 seconds into our ride, and arrest us on Jefferson Avenue.

At 5 pm, about 25 bicyclists gathered at Hart Plaza to make history, as members of Detroit's first Critical Mass Bike Ride and Protest Against Over-Motorization. Critical Mass bike rides started in San Francisco in 1992. Today, in hundreds of cities nation-wide, bicyclists meet on a monthly basis to exercise, socialize and to actively not pollute the earth, although sometimes it may piss off traffic because bikers use a lane of traffic. In Detroit, there is no law against bicycles, nor biking in the streets.

The 20 arrested, along with their bikes, are now part of the "Detroit 21", including 10 men and 10 Ride or Die Chicks. Thirteen riders are charged with "interfering with a police officer" or "disorderly conduct".



city ordinance violations—and the other 7 are charged with "wearing a mask"—a state law.

It is arguable that the arrests were a result of the few people who decided to challenge the states anti-mask law. In fact, just before the ride began, one legal observer heard a call from a cop to arrest all those wearing masks. However, the cops arrested everyone as this was their real agenda. After arresting those with masks, they went on to arrest a legal observer who was writing down the names of those arrested and other bystanders.

The manner of arrest was undoubtedly brutal. The Gang Squad, in partially marked vehicles, started out next to us at Hart Plaza. When the light turned red, we entered the road. Gang Squad immediately zoomed around and in front of us. Within seconds, those at the front were, to everyone's surprise, maliciously arrested. The unmarked pigs yelled "Get those bikes to the side of the road!" Two seconds later,

The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is a proposal to establish a "free trade" zone in the western hemisphere that would extend NAFTA (North American Free Trade Area) to the tip of South America. The main purpose of this trade area is to allow corporations to reap greater profits by getting rid of what they perceive to be barriers to trade: environmental regulations, unionized workplaces, restrictions on child labor, etc. The FTAA essentially opens the borders for corporations to exploit workers and consumers in many nations while at the same time refusing to grant access to workers who cross borders seeking better working and living conditions. Locally, the FTAA is part of the corporate trend of privatization, which is the marketing for profit of any entity needed or desired for human development. The efforts to privatize schools, prisons, and other domains of public works is part of the overall strategy of global corporations to make a profit out of any possible element of our society: Children attending corporate-funded charter schools are being schooled strictly to become workers of the corporation that fund their schools, rather than gaining a general education; Prisons that are turned into industrial laundries, manufacturing sites of simple machinery, or clothing factories are slave/sweatshops where corporations benefit greatly from not paying the prisoners/workers and not having to deal with workers organizations.

The FTAA was proposed in the early 1990's by a faction within the Organization of American States (OAS). The proponents of the FTAA claim that it will aid in bringing needed jobs and industry to developing countries. However, many of these developing countries are led by repressive governments where the disbursement of needed aid and materials cannot be guaranteed. Although the OAS has many human rights causes as a part of its agenda, it does not and cannot enforce human rights policies, so it de facto ends up supporting, through proposals like the FTAA, undemocratic governments. Similar to NAFTA, the FTAA will benefit corporations and governments, not people.

Detroit, which is the largest foreign trade zone in the United States, is the center

of NAFTA because of its location (50% of the manufacturing industry in the U.S. is located within 500 miles of Detroit) and is the number one exporter of goods to NAFTA countries. The physical condition of this city is uncontestable evidence that free trade does not benefit working people: The roads are in constant disrepair, our neighborhoods are littered with burnt out buildings and public transportation is nearly non-existent. Archer has already sold out the city by allowing corporations to invest in the stadiums and casinos, which are little more than playgrounds for the upper-class suburbanites and do nothing to build the infrastructure of the city. Why is it that the city government can afford to give a \$300 million tax break to a capitalist to build a stadium, but can't afford to maintain the public school system? The public school system is on the road to privatization and the city housing commission is soon to follow. Detroit also suffers intensely from the pollution and expansion of the manufacturing industries, neighborhoods in Detroit around the Ambassador Bridge (to Windsor, Canada) are being demolished to expand the bridge and provide more "room" for trade. Detroiters have already been displaced to make way for stadiums, casinos and other entertainment institutions for the wealthy.

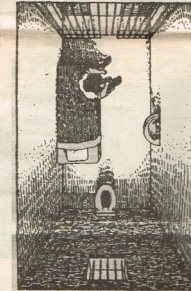
Detroit will not benefit from the FTAA, as it has not benefited from NAFTA. Under this agreement, corporations will move jobs to countries where they can exploit the people for cheaper labor and then gain additional profits here by making us pay for services that are normally considered public and free, like education for children. By opposing the FTAA, we are opposing the growing corporate trend of globalization, which is simply the continuing exploitation of people all over the world for corporate profit. We are also opposed to the idea of "fair trade". Both forms of trade are based in a system in which goods are produced for profit rather than for need. While government regulation of trade may keep jobs from going overseas, it will not stop the process of privatization and is still based on the exploitation of people for profit. Instead, we advocate the production of goods based on human need. We envision a society where our collective efforts will be put towards building communities where everyone can receive adequate housing, food, education, and leisure time. Corporations serve only to exploit the people and governments serve only to regulate our lives; neither one is desired or needed.

By: Wenita

## FREE THE DETROIT 21!

Between June 2nd and 5th, the Detroit Police arrested 22 activists, mostly organizers, who came out to make their voices heard and to stand in opposition to the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas which eliminates borders for products and not people. All court dates at 36th District Court. Contact the Fascist Mayor (about his fascist agenda), the Chief of Police to protest police brutality and the city prosecutor to DROP THE CHARGES! Here is a break-down of the arrests:

**June 2, Detroit Critical Mass** 20 people and their bikes arrested. Numerous acts of police brutality recorded. 13 charged with city ordinance misdemeanors, "Interfering with Police" or "Disorderly Conduct". 7 charged with



violating state "Wearing of Mask" laws. Preliminary hearings scheduled for the 13 on June 30, and July 6 for the 7 charged with the mask law.

**June 4, Shutdown OAS Demo**

1 person is arrested after 2 were temporarily detained by dozens of Gang Squad for carrying batting helmets, symbolizing citizens resistance of police brutality. The individual was arrested for traffic tickets outside of Detroit. He was blind-folded and driven to an incommunicado place (which he recognized). Detroit cops extradited him to Dearborn. His traffic tickets have been settled for a fraction of his bail.

**June 6, 2000 Cop Watch**

1 legal observer was arrested when about 12 people set foot outside to videotape and record police actions on the streets. They are immediately targeted, detained and interrogated by Detroit police. Originally charged with "Interfering", charges were dropped to "Disorderly Conduct". Preliminary exam scheduled for July 11.

the pigs were throwing people off of their bikes, grabbing one woman by her backpack as she rode, handcuffing another who wore a big sign on his head that read "Cars destroy the environment" and shoving his arms up high in the air behind him vertically. Finally, one biker was close-fisted punched in the face and slapped around while sitting in the back of the squad car.

The acts of the Detroit pigs should be condemned as outright police brutality and the illegal arrest of bicyclists. The bikers were targeted, followed and then attacked. Gang squad was obviously used for their lack of training and ruthlessness in arrest situations. Our detention, although unlawful, was probably the best thing that could have happened the whole weekend. First of all, no one was held longer than 23

hours. The pigs tried to scare us, saying we would be held until Wednesday (because courts were closed due to the potential uprising), but we laughed. We were fully supported and continue to be represented by the Detroit Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG). When our attorney was denied access to us at the jail, a call to Detroit City Councilperson Maryann Mahaffey and then to the Chief of Police provided us with reasonable access to our lawyers. In a last ditch effort, the pigs tried to detain some of the guys who were non-cooperative beyond the rest of us.

Preparation can be salvation. The NLG had a judge come down to the jail on Saturday morning to do arraignments and all were released in time to march against Police Brutality at 4 pm. The media attention was an added plus,

because when the state comes down on obviously peaceful persons, it only works to further expose the state and it pisses-off the public.

Anarchists involved are not surprised by the pigs' policies, nor do we regret one minute of our actions or our participation in the arrests. The fascist Mayor Archer's objectives the entire week were clear: suppress "constitutional protections" acts to discourage public response to multi-national slave labor corporations.

But it's not over. Bikers return to court June 30th and July 6th. If charges aren't dropped, we will proceed to trial. And, then, we sue the fucking state.

Slay tuned.

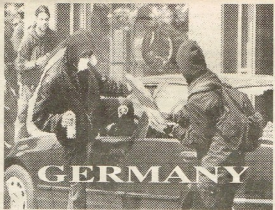




*this world*  
*our resistance is as tran*



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DETROIT  
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MAYDAY 2000

# is revolting

national as capital

## Detroit May Day March Demands Immigration Amnesty

By Ernesto Mireles

The Michigan Citizen

May Day became a reality again in Detroit and across the country, as about 100 people gathered to observe International Workers Day and demand amnesty for undocumented workers. The rally held in Clark Park under a downpour of rain, was organized as part of a national movement to bring amnesty for undocumented workers in the United States. Similar rallies were held in Chicago, New York, and Ohio.

"May 1 was designated because of its history as a national day of organizing for workers," said Teofilo Reyes, a march organizer and a member of the Brown Berets de Aztlan. "We feel it's appropriate to reclaim May 1 as a day for workers."

The holiday, which started in the U.S., is rarely observed here, although it is widely celebrated in most of the world. It is a commemoration of the 1886 Chicago Haymarket Martyrs, who were eight anarchist organizers for the 8-hour work day accused of throwing a bomb at police at a labor rally that some of them were at at the time of the incident. They were in actuality being tried for their politics, anarchism, rather than the attack. Four were hung, Parsons, Engel, Spies and Fischer. Lingg cheated the hangman by committing suicide the day before the execution. Seven years later the remaining three men, Neche, Schwab and Fielden, were pardoned by Governor Algeid along with the already five dead men.

Organizers of the march said the demonstration was an important show of solidarity in the fight against globalization. Many of the participants were veterans of the Seattle and Washington DC shutdowns against the IMF and WTO.

Several of the marchers' demands were specific to Detroit. At the third precinct at the corner of Vernor and I-75, participants rallied against police brutality in the city.

"We want to raise people's awareness, to see people are fighting back," said Jason a May Day coordinator with Active Transformation, a local anarchist collective of community organizers. "See what happened in Seattle and Washington DC; people will get involved in something concrete."

"As global capitalism gets entrenched, more and more people are seeing the end of a night stick, since crime increases with poverty," said Jason. "That's why we see 100,000 new cops across the country."

The national amnesty campaign has been brewing for well over a year. Major endorses include the AFL-CIO and other labor organizations. Last October, two busloads of Detroiters went to a national march in Washington DC," Reyes said. The trip was organized by the Xicano Development Center, a project of the Brown Berets. Over 15,000 people attended that event.

"The national coalition was formed to fight for general amnesty for undocumented workers," said Reyes. "It's a coalition of labor, religious, and community groups."

Jorge Fernandez, from the Dominican Republic, is a member of the bargaining committee at Mexican Industries. Workers at the company recently organized themselves with the UAW after a bitterly contested campaign. It was the second organizing drive in five years. Fernandez said he attended the event because he's seen first-hand what happens when workers don't have basic rights.

"We need globalization in our rights, not for the companies," said Fernandez. "I understand the people coming here are very good people."

Fear of organizing is also a problem when undocumented workers are left to their bosses mercy.

"Employers will tell workers that the union is going to check their green cards," said John Martinez, a rally participant and organizing committee chair at UAW Local 600, where Mexican Industries workers are affiliated. "We don't. Those are company tactics."

Martinez said he attended the rally because he is interested in helping undocumented workers.

"Hopefully this is going to be a start in getting an amnesty law passed," said Martinez.

Organizers of the march said there will be more mobilization in the near future. Although the numbers were small in Detroit this time, thousands of people turned out in New York, Dallas, and other cities.

"Workers of the world will unite," said Jason. "With the realization that we will be a stronger force to fight back against globalization and market."

INDIA  
ENGLAND  
JAPAN  
GERMANY  
SOUTH KOREA  
MEXICO  
POLAND  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
PHILLIPINES  
+ MANY MORE

SOUTH KOREA



## immigration news briefs

BY WENITA

### APRIL 25, HOTEL WORKERS GET STAY OF DEPORTATION

Immigrant workers, originally detained for union organizing, have a partial win against the INS. An agreement negotiated between lawyers and the INS will allow seven of the eight workers to remain in the US and work here legally for two years. More than 100 supporters waiting outside the immigration court greeted the news with cheers. The workers, all from Mexico, were detained during a union organizing campaign at the Holiday Inn Express in Minneapolis after the manager turned them in to the INS. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) investigated the case, and in January Holiday Inn Express paid each worker \$8,000 for alleged workplace abuses [see INB 10/99, 1/01, 2/00].

The INS granted the seven workers "deferred action," a rarely used discretionary measure that allows undocumented people to remain in the US, usually because of cooperation with the government. They will be allowed to work legally beginning in July. The eighth worker, Amado Flores, was not allowed to stay because he had been previously deported from the US and had returned illegally. Flores said he has no regrets about becoming a union activist, even though he is expected to be returned to Mexico in May. "A part of me is sad," Flores said through an interpreter on Apr. 25 as people around him hugged and chanted. "But another part of me is very happy for my companions."

### APRIL 10, INDEFINITE DETAINEE LAW STRUCK!

On Apr. 10, a panel of the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled in a 3-0 decision that the INS cannot indefinitely detain immigrants with prior criminal convictions whose home countries won't take them back. The INS had argued that the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) allows immigrants who cannot be deported within 90 days to be "detained beyond the removal period." The court ruled in the case of Kim Ho Ma, a Cambodian refugee. Ma spent nearly three years in INS detention after serving his sentence; he was released last September.

A total of 575 immigrants are directly affected by the ruling. Region office based in Los Angeles. The Justice Department has up to 30 days to appeal the ruling to the full panel of 9th Circuit judges, and is expected to do so. If they appeal, the government lawyers could request a stay, effectively blocking the immigrants' release for now. The full panel's ruling can be appealed to the US Supreme Court. Several federal courts have issued contradictory rulings in similar cases in the past year.

### MAY 13, KKK-LIKE VIGILANTES ORGANIZE AGAINST IMMIGRANTS

Anti-immigrant groups are meeting to organize resistance to Mexi-

## INITIATIVE AGAINST ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION PRAGUE 2000

Join the campaign against IMF/WB summit in Prague, September 25-28, 2000

We need your support for the continuing struggle for global justice!!!

Some 20,000 representatives of global capital (world bankers, economists and financiers) are expected to come to Prague in September to attend the 55th annual summit of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. This prestigious meeting of the world economic elite, the first of its kind in the Central and Eastern Europe, will definitely be of a great importance. The delegates will meet to propose a scheme of further liberalization of the world economy by defining new loan priorities and structural adjustment conditions.

The events in Seattle at the WTO meeting last November showed that a huge wave of global resistance is rising against the expanding power of global capital. The IMF/WB summit in Prague will be our next big opportunity to express our demands for global justice.

The Initiative Against Economic Globalization

(INPEG) is a loose coalition of various Czech environmental, human rights and autonomist/anarchist groups, organizations and individuals who are ready to stand up critically against the summit of the world financial oligarchy. INPEG has been meeting regularly in Prague since last summer. It has planned a series of campaigns that will culminate in ten days of activities starting on September 20. Non-violent demonstrations, info campaigns, and the Festival of Art and Resistance including a counter-summit will be the main resistance activities in the mentioned period.

We will be exposing the links between the IMF/WB, the WTO and transnational corporations and the ways how they work to maximize private profits and limit the power of people to protect the environment, determine their economic destiny, and safeguard their human rights. They are also directly responsible for the third world debt. Even their debt relief policy continues under the harsh conditions of the IMF Structural Adjustment Programmes, and thus makes just one step forward and two steps backward. Our goal is to give the proper name to what the policies of the IMF/WB really cause in the South as well as in the Central and Eastern Europe. We will be demanding an immediate suspension of these practices leading to environmental destruction, growing social inequality and poverty and curtailing of peoples rights. We will be demonstrating our solidarity with the global resistance movement.

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## No More Business As Usual

Join thousands of concerned people in Philadelphia and Los Angeles to let both the Republican and Democratic Parties know that business cannot continue as usual. We will come from every corner of the world united in our demand for a total change of priorities from the production of things to the caring for people and the environment. Join us in a series of marches, nonviolent direct actions and events leading up to and during the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, July 31-August 3 and the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, August 14-17.

We will celebrate and renew our resistance to corporate globalization, militarism, poverty, starvation, campaign finance corruption, sexism, racism, homo/trans-phobia, criminalization of youth, environmental destruction, prison industrial complex,



The Party Is Over  
Daily  
July 21-Aug 3  
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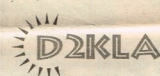
genocide, undermining of organized labor, against welfare reform, persecution and deportation of immigrants, lack of decent and affordable healthcare, undermining of small family farms, disintegration of public education, law enforcement corruption, brutality and state sanctioned murder, corporate controlled media, exploitation of the disabled and all forms of oppression that divide people throughout the world.

This is the beginning of the politics of the new millennium.

Join us in our call to put an end to poverty, hunger, militarism and the destruction of the environment. Join us in our call for economic, social, gender, and racial justice.

Join us in our call for peace and freedom. Join us as we march for our lives, our future and for the generations to come.

Join us to make history in Philadelphia and in L.A.



Shutdown The DNC  
L.A.  
Aug 16-17  
D2KLA.org

### World Bank Wolfensohn Gets "Welcome" At MSU

Just days after the April 16th protests in Washington DC against the World Bank and IMF, Michigan State University (MSU) President McPherson announced that the keynote speaker for the undergraduate commencement ceremony would be World Bank President James Wolfensohn. The announcement was immediately surrounded by controversy. Students against the World Bank were enraged by the announcement and began to meet. Many students were upset that the McPherson would choose a speaker who would bring controversy to their graduation while

not necessarily being concerned about World Bank policies. The planning meetings drew around 100 people many of which had never worked together and a significant number of people who had never done any type of activism. This turn out was quite large for a student body not known for activism.

At the meetings it was decided that we would use the opportunity to educate people about the World Bank and show opposition to it while respecting the graduates. A rally or "alternative commencement" was purposed and students split up into committees to deal with various aspects of planning such an event. Students interested in taking direct action began to meet as well.

While students planned their response to Wolfensohn's visit the local media began their job of hyping the whole thing up. They speculated on the number of "outsiders" would be coming into town to riot which drove the administration and police into a tailspin. Would activists disrupt Wolfensohn's speech and ruin graduation? Would they try and shutdown roads around the graduation? The administration nervous about the possibilities of "outsiders" decided to issue tickets for entry.

With less than 2 weeks to plan for the May 5th commencement students did

quite well in dealing with the situation. A teach-in on the World Bank occurred and the administration worried about the possibility of protests outside the commencement gave in to upset students and made sure that the rally had a stage and sound system. The direct action group decided that the most visible protest option would be a moving Critical Mass bike ride which would be annoying to drivers trying to get to commencement but less likely to be attacked by the police.

May 5th  
The Critical Mass bike ride kicked off the day in front of the Biblio's Pizza (R.L.P.) at 11:30 after eating a delicious four course meal prepared by Food Not Banks. Starting with about 40 riders our group grew to about 50 as we spilled on to Grand River taking all 3 lanes. The experience was exhilarating, as the majority of us had never participated in a Critical Mass ride. It was quite a sight. We shocked many people but in a good way. No one seemed to upset about the whole thing but they too slowly knew what we were out as we circled the roads around the commencement shouting anti-World Bank slogans and congratulating the graduates.

The police had surrounded the commencement site with crowd control fences and had some 200 officers on duty looking pretty stupid when no one decided to show up and stand around with posters or "riot."

The rally went off without a hitch and gave people a chance to get some information and hear speakers which included of Fifty Years is Enough.

Most importantly students at MSU began working together.



## Update On The Struggle To Save FreeMumia

by: Monica

Mumia supporters are under attack! In April several longtime activists were sentenced to one year supervised probation, ordered to surrender their passports, confined to the federal court districts in which they live, and forbidden to associate with convicted felons—such as Mumia. Each of them have been ordered to hold a "regular" job—meaning no full time volunteer work for Mumia—and they must submit to visits to their homes and offices by probation officers, provide list all of the people they are in contact with who have been convicted of a crime, and turn in detailed financial records every month on where their money comes from and how they spend it.

All this for the crime of "failure to obey a lawful order" during the civil disobedience at the Liberty Bell last July. This charge isn't even a misdemeanor! The people sentenced to supervised probation are Francis Golden, Mumia's literary agent and C. Clark Kissinger of Refuse & Resist!. Similar sentences were given to Paul Mango and Kim Lamberty from the Catholic Worker in Washington, DC; Mich Cohen from the Green Party; Jane Jackson from California and Joe Brown from Washington. In addition to this, Clark Kissinger's wife Judy was served with a subpoena by the FBI to testify in front of a federal grand jury, supposedly relating to an investigation of a former employer. She was also ordered to produce all her financial records for the last ten years—including joint accounts with Clark. These sentences obviously have nothing to do with the civil disobedience at the Liberty Bell, but are in fact an attempt to stop the international movement to stop the Execution and Free Mumia Abu-Jamal. They are also a reaction to the strides being made in building this movement. It is not a coincidence that these harsh sentences were handed down following an increase in activity around Mumia's case.

In a May 7 rally for justice for Mumia 6,000 people packed the theater at Madison Square Garden to listen to a host of speakers on Mumia's behalf. This was followed, on May 13, by mass demonstrations in San Francisco, Philadelphia, internationally and by the Midwest Mobilization for Mumia in Chicago. Hundreds of people made their way to Chicago for this regional rally followed by a spirited march during which activists took over Lakeshore Drive, refusing to let traffic through. Six people were arrested, many were brutalized by Chicago cops and a Detroit woman was knocked to the ground by a mounted police horse before the street was cleared and the march continued on its way. In this same time period, the governor of Illinois instituted a moratorium on executions in that state and Judge Yohn granted a request by Mumia's legal team allowing them to file a supplement brief on the issues raised by the recent Supreme Court decision on the Effective Death Penalty Act. The defense team was given

until June 2 to file this brief and the prosecution had until June 23 to reply. What this means is that the date of Mumia's first day in court will be announced sometime after June 23. We will probably get a week to ten days notice, so people need to be prepared to drop everything and head to Philly to support



cops in chicago

Mumia on this day! With the recent murder of Shaka Sankofa by the state of Texas amidst wide spread public outcry it is obvious that we must step up the fight to stop this and all other state sponsored murders! Contact your local Mumia Coalition for more information. In Detroit call 313-469-8383.



cops in chicago

## OVER 100 PROTEST RACIAL PROFILING AND POLICE BRUTALITY IN KALAMAZOO, MICH.

by JoNina M. Abron and Lorenzo Kombo Ervin Black Autonomy News Service (Kalamazoo, Mich.)— With cries of "no more naked jailings, prosecute the cops!", over 100 demonstrators marched Saturday in this small Southwest Michigan city (pop. 85,000) to protest recent "driving while black" arrests and the jailings of over 25 (mostly black) men and their forced nude imprisonment in the city and county jails, many without food or water.

The freezing temperatures and snow of the preceding night nothing to dampen the spirits of the protesters, who included activists from Lansing and Detroit. They marched through the center of the black community on the city's northside, beginning with dozens of people and picking up many others by the time they reached the downtown rallying point at Kalamazoo City Hall.

Leading the marchers were the four young children of John Moseley, a black man who was recently sentenced to life in prison for shooting a white Kalamazoo County sheriff's deputy. Many in passing cars honked their horns in support. There has been extensive local reporting on the naked jailing cases and the numerous incidents of local black residents who have been stopped in DWB/racial profiling cases, which have outraged the public.

The demonstration was sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality, a project of the newly created group, Black Autonomy Network of Community Organizers (BANCO). BANCO is dedicated to building a grassroots, poor people's survival movement in black communities across America. Locally, BANCO is led by JoNina M. Abron, an associate professor at Western Michigan University. Abron, who is also acting Mid-West regional coordinator for BANCO, co-founded the coalition with other local activists.

Speaking on the steps of City Hall, Abron told the demonstrators, "This is the first time in the history of this city that there has ever been a protest against police brutality, and those of us here today made it happen!" The co-chairs of the march committee, Pearl Warren and Orman Gordon, and Abron introduced the speakers at the rally.

The main speaker was Beryl Wilson, whose Sept. 20, 1999, eight hour naked jailing caused extensive exposure of police torture of prisoners at the city jail. "It's a shame, but my experience is not unique," Wilson said. "It's time for a change in this community. No one should have to suffer these indignities."

After Wilson's naked jailing was reported in the media, several other black men came forward to report similar experiences. "Beryl Wilson is a hero. It's risky to report police brutality, but Beryl had the courage to do it," Abron said.

Michael Burney described how he and his wife Ida were beaten, arrested and jailed on Feb. 17 by a county sheriff's deputy, who falsely charged Burney with driving on a suspended license. "What ever happened to the 'Officer Friendly' they taught us about in school?" Burney said.

Ormon Gordon, mother of Moseley, and Moseley's wife Laticia spoke about the judicial frame-up of Moseley, who was sentenced in March to a minimum of 30 years in prison after his conviction for shooting a county deputy sheriff in October, 1999, during a traffic stop. After the shooting, Moseley, was held naked at the county jail for several hours before receiving medical attention for a bullet wound he sustained in his neck. Gordon accused Judge Richard Ryan Lamb of denying her son a fair trial by ignoring evidence that she said would have cleared Moseley and for failing to sequester the jury, whose deliberations began on the same day that another deputy sheriff was shot. Moseley is appealing his conviction.

John McKenna spoke about his arrest and brutal beating at the Kalamazoo County Jail. McKenna, who is white, said jail officers put a helmet on his head and used an instrument that he could not see to repeatedly strike the helmet. "Police brutality is not just a black problem," McKenna said. "We've got to break this blue (police) code of silence."

Also speaking at the rally was local attorney Frederick E. Royce, who is representing Wilson and other victims of naked jailings in a federal civil rights lawsuit against the city. Royce is also handling the lawsuit of Michael and Ida Burney, who are suing the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department.

Lorenzo Kombo Ervin, co-founder and acting national facilitator of BANCO, told the protesters, "This isn't just a Kalamazoo problem. This is a national problem. We can fight police brutality, but we have to mobilize. We're going to shut this town down unless they stop these naked jailings."

Ervin, a veteran civil rights activist, is facing a year in prison for protesting against police brutality in two separate incidents in his hometown of Chattanooga, Tenn. For more info contact: Black Autonomy News Service, P.O. Box 1962, Kalamazoo, MI 49019. (616)337-7653, e-mail: banco\_midwest@hotmail.com.

cans crossing the border. The groups' agenda is supported by the RKK. On May 13 a group of ranchers led a rally in Cochise County, Arizona to discuss a plan of action to deal with what they call "a Mexican invasion." The number of migrants coming through the area has surged recently as the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) seals off other crossing areas, and as drought conditions in northern Mexico push rural workers to seek jobs north of the border.

According to the Mexican daily La Reforma, a proposal surfaced at the rally to place anti-personnel land mines at strategic places along the border with Mexico in order to deter people from crossing illegally. [LVA 5/15/00]

## MAY 13, RANCHERS SHOOT MIGRANTS IN TEXAS

Vigilante violence also appears to be growing in the Texas borderlands around Del Rio and Eagle Pass. On May 13 in Kinney County, San Blackwood, chased Mexican immigrants Eusebio de Haro and Javier Sanchez off his property, then followed the two in his car and shot at them as they fled. De Haro bled to death after being hit in the leg from behind. The shooting took place off Blackwood's property. Blackwood was charged with murder and released on bail pending arraignment.

Less than a month earlier, in neighboring Edwards County, Coy Brown allegedly shot Mexican immigrant Mauricio Gonzalez in the back after telling Gonzalez and two other immigrants to leave his property. Gonzalez survived; Brown has been charged with assault.

Patrick Glenn Bordenon has been charged in two separate shootings of Mexican immigrants in the past year near Vega Verde, north of Del Rio. [Houston Chronicle 5/21/00] One victim was wounded, and the other—a 16-year old boy—was killed. [CBS 2/17/00] Nearly all the shootings occurred when the victim was a distance away and walking in the opposite direction.

## MAY 21, BORDER PATROL SHOTS MIGRANTS TOO

Border Patrol agent shot and killed an immigrant on May 21 near Brownsville, Texas. The agent was trying to apprehend the immigrant, and fired twice after the immigrant allegedly wrestled his baton away. As of May 23, neither the name of the agent nor the immigrant had been released. [AP 5/24/00]

On May 13, Mexican national Jose Vega-Bastida was shot and wounded by a Border Patrol agent just west of the San Ysidro border crossing in California. On May 25 the Border Patrol admitted that Vega had rolled down the steep, concrete-lined banks of the Tijuana River and was on the Mexican side of the border when he was shot. Border Patrol spokesman Roy Villareal said Vega threw a rock at an agent who was climbing back up the US side. After the rock barely missed the agent's head, the agent's partner fired at Vega. Villareal said.



ALGIERS, ALGERIA

Nearly 100,000 Algerian industrial workers went on strike on May 21, 2000 to protest plans that could lead to further privatization of state industries. Recent proposals to privatize some companies could lead to job cuts in Algeria, where most of the industry is owned and run by the state. Sixty companies representing the metals, mechanical and electrical industries were affected by the strike.

TORONTO, CANADA

On June 15, 2000 nearly 1,500 protesters gathered in Allan Gardens as part of a march sponsored by the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty demanding the right to address the Legislature on poverty and homelessness issues. The crowd of anarchists, unionists, psychiatric survivors, members of the homeless community and poverty, housing and tenant's rights activists, congregated on the day that the Safe Streets Act, a measure which criminalized homelessness, went into effect. They also demanded that the Ontario provincial government put an end to the mass eviction system. Barricades and riot police met the protesters at the steps of the legislature. Delegates from the crowd demanded that the police let the protesters through the barricades in order to address the legislature on homeless issues. When the police refused, the protesters at the front of the crowd simply grab the barricades and walk backward with them, allowing the crowd to surge through. Police instantly began swinging batons and launching tear gas. The battle lasted more than an hour and ambulances refused to enter the area to treat the injured. The violence of the police, which was captured on Canadian television, became so intense that protesters began to pick up anything in sight to throw at the police: a group of anarchists broke up a piece of sidewalk and hurled chunks of it at the cops. When some protesters began to board buses to leave the area, the police got on the buses and began to make arrests, rather than allow a peaceful dispersal. At least 18 protesters were arrested and many more were injured.

WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

On June 6, the Board of the World Bank Group agreed to support the Chad-Cameroon Petroleum Development and Pipeline Project, which involves drilling 300 oil wells in the southern Doba region of Chad, then pumping oil along a purpose-built 1100-kilometer pipeline to Cameroon's Atlantic coast at Kribi. The project is anticipated to produce 225,000 barrels of oil each day. The COCOTOTCO consortium, which will run the project, comprises ExxonMobil, the world's largest oil company, with a 40% share, the Malaysian oil company Petronas with 35% and US oil giant Chevron with 25%. The project is expected to cost \$3.7

# The Founding of the Northeastern Federation of Anarchist Commu- nists (NEFAC)

"We are communists. But our communism is not of the authoritarian school: it is anarchist communism, communism without government, free communism. It is a synthesis of two chief aims pursued by humanity since the dawn of history - economic freedom and political freedom."

— Peter Kropotkin (1842-1921)

Despite the recent resurgence of militant left-activism and a growing interest in anarchist theory and practice, very little has been accomplished in the way of revolutionary anarchist organization here in North America. Since the collapse of Love & Rage over two years ago, few attempts have been made to fill the void left behind. What is to develop into a serious revolutionary movement, it is important that we begin

to establish revolutionary organizations that are capable of maximizing the political impact of the class struggle-anarchist ideas and action within social movements and popular struggles. For the past several months, a number of anarchist-communists from the northeastern region have been networking around the need for such an organization.

From April 7-9, the Northeastern Federation of Anarchist Communists (NEFAC) was officially launched at a conference held in Boston, Massachusetts. For three days, over two dozen anarchists met extensively, discussing the need for more theoretical coherence, tactical unity and collective responsibility within the growing anarchist movement, and collectively working together in establishing a regional anarchist-communist federation based around these principles here in the northeast.

Though the group was limited in what could be accomplished over just one weekend, participants were able to formally adopt a 13-point 'Aims & Principles' statement for the federation (or at least a draft version to be refined at the next conference) and lay down the initial groundwork for an internal organizational structure. By the end of the weekend it was decided that a follow-up conference would be planned for August (tentatively to be held in Morgantown, West Virginia) in order to consolidate and expand on the work that was accomplished at this founding conference.

It was agreed that the basic structure of NEFAC would consist of a membership based on active collectives, affinity groups and individuals from the region who identify with the communist tradition within anarchism. The activity of the federation will be organized around three poles: study and theoretical development; anarchist agitation and propaganda; and intervention within the class struggle. Overall, the federation is not intended to act as a mass organization in itself, but rather a militant anarchist minority working within existing social movements and popular struggles in an effort to radicalize them, while simultaneously furthering a specifically communist perspective within the general anarchist movement.

In an effort to organize across national and linguistic borders, NEFAC will maintain both French and English sections, uniting predominantly English-speaking anarchist-communists from northeastern U.S. with French-speaking Quebecois anarchist-communists. From now until August, the Sabote Anarchist Group (Boston) and Groupe Anarchiste Emile Henry (Quebec) will act as the respective English and French speaking 'coordinating collectives' responsible for the administrative task of registering new members within NEFAC (only official members will have voting privileges and decision making capabilities at the next conference). A general election will be held in August in order to fill administrative positions within the federation for the next year.

To receive a copy of the NEFAC 'Aims & Principles', the draft constitution, and information on how to apply for membership within the federation, contact: Sabote Anarchist Group  
PO Box 238645  
Boston, MA 02123, USA  
or  
Groupe Anarchiste Emile Henry  
C.P. 55051  
138 St-Vallier O.  
Quebec (QC), G1K 1J0, Canada

## Newspaper Reviews

By Shaun

Print media has from its inception has been one of the most powerful tools available for spreading ideas and stirring debate. It can give our communities a voice that the mainstream corporate media will never provide. The number of revolutionary publications coming out consistently is growing all the time and each one is contributing to the struggle in their own ways. Here are some new publications that we encourage you to check out:

### La Xicanada - A JOURNAL OF REVOLUTIONARY THOUGHT AND ACTION

This new quarterly journal coming straight out of south-west Detroit is intended to begin a dialog on political theory which will allow for the total liberation and self-determination of indigenous peoples. The Brown Berets of Aztlan take the political re-education of the community seriously and "La Xicanada" fits in well with their successful organizing via the Xicano Development Center.

The first issue looks at the arrest of a local man who was shot twice in the back by a Department of Corrections Officer, the May Day celebration in Detroit, an update on the campaign for amnesty for undocumented workers, and columns by Xicano organizers.

Yearly subscriptions (4 issues) are available to individuals for \$16 and institutions for \$32 by calling (313) 841-0838 or by writing the Xicano Development Center at P.O. Box 10562, Detroit, MI 48210 or email: xicanol@hotmail.com.

### ARSENAL - A MAGAZINE OF ANARCHIST STRATEGY AND CULTURE

This magazine is with out a doubt the best anarchist periodical I have ever read. It is visually beautiful with a color cover, top-notch design and original artwork throughout. However the writing is what really sets "Arsenal" apart from the crowd. It probes into the anarchist world and critically addresses our strengths and weaknesses in working to bring about revolutionary change while still inspiring the reader. Articles in the first issue are a well-balanced blend of fun and politics with issues ranging from soccer and anarchy to a look at the legacy of Love and Rage (former North American Anarchist Federation).

Yearly subscriptions (4 issues) are available for \$14 by writing Arsenal Magazine, 1573 N. Milwaukee Ave, PMB #420, Chicago, IL 60647 or email: arsenal@www.com.

### CLAMOR - A LOUD AND CONTINUOUS UPROAR OF HUMAN VOICES

This magazine is an attempt to spread anarchistic ideas to a more mainstream audience by putting lots of zine type but well written articles and stories into a pretty slick looking package and selling it at mainstream stores. Being an "undercover" anarchist publication it seems to do a better job spreading the lifestyle aspect of the movement than focusing on theory, actual organizing or class struggle. However the ideas are there. It may just take a little while for them to sink in and be recognized by the reader, which is exactly why we need this on the shelves of mainstream stores.

Yearly subscriptions (6 issues) are available for \$20 from Become the Media, P.O. Box 1125, Bowling Green, OH 43402 or email clamormagazine@hotmail.com.

## GIVING CAPITALISM THE BOOT Matches and Mayhem Report

by Heather

Chicago has proven once again that they have their acts together. On May 5, 6, and 7th the Chicago anarchists hosted Matches and Mayhem. From the Haymarket Memorial Football Tournament, to the anarchist film festival, to the Midwest anarchist bookfair, to the propaganda gallery, not to mention a plethora of workshops, there was more to do than time to do it in. There was even a variety show planned for Saturday evening entertainment with song, trivia, jokes, and even an anarchist cheerleading squad.

The bookfair offered an opportunity check out impressive (to say the least) publications like Clamor out of Bowling Green, OH and The Alarm out of Chicago. It also offered endless tables books, videos, T-shirts, stickers, posters, patches, etc.

The focus of the weekend was the football tournament; the AFA (Anarchist Football Association) was represented by the Detroit Riot, the Chicago Alarm, a second team from Chicago, and 20-25 individuals from various cities joined together to make up the "Scrap Metal" team. Nearly every match resulted in a tie, but in the end Chicago Arsenal managed come out victorious, just beating out Detroit Riot.

With the excitement of the actions in Seattle and DC still fresh in the air and the anticipation of the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, and the Democratic National Convention in LA soon to come; the whole weekend was filled with positive energy. I left taking with me a sense of organization and deep comradery from all the Midwest anarchists.

## WE WILL WIN!



# Red, White and Blue Fascism

The following article by anarchist political prisoner Robert Thaxton is edited due to space constraints. He wishes for the widespread distribution of this text in the anarchist and radical press. He also enjoys mail: Robert Thaxton #12112776/OSP 2605 State St. Salem, OR 97310 USA

It has been suggested that action be taken on the issue of rape and sexual abuse of prisoners in the U.S. this July 4th. The Anarchist Prisoners' Legal Aid Network is a new group dedicated to meeting the needs and breaking the isolation of anarchist prisoners. We encourage widespread involvement by fellow anarchists. We may be contacted at:

Anarchist Prisoners' Legal Aid Network  
818 SW 3rd Ave. PMB #534  
Portland, OR 97204

Rape in U.S. prisons is so much a part of American culture, comedians and TV sitcoms refer to it as a way to score a quick laugh. This is a sad reflection of the state of our society. The issue of prison rape points to many related concerns about the civil rights, health and safety of prisoners and the "build 'em and fill 'em" mania which has the U.S. political system moving in a seriously dangerous direction. The incredible growth of the punishment industry has made it an integral part of the economy, similar to the way the production of war materials is essential for economic growth. This continual expansion requires ever more people to be incarcerated and for longer periods of time. It's about jobs.

My intention in writing this was originally to call attention to the plight of a woman prisoner I know - Barilee Baunister at Oregon Women's Corrections Center. Her story is so typical of the conditions abused prisoners face, though, it's impossible to separate from the larger social and political issues that created and perpetuate these conditions...

## Who's Your Role Model?

My friend Barilee is involved in a scenario worthy of the most twisted moments of Franz Kafka. This young, working class, single mother (there's three strikes against her already!) lost her temper. Her and her best friend's lives were endangered by the reckless actions a stranger - a man who she later assaulted in a fit of rage. She is currently serving a 12 year sentence for her crime under the supervision of the Oregon Department of Corrections (O.D.C.). Had the man she assaulted killed her through his reckless actions, he might have received a considerably lesser sentence.

Unprepared for the drastic increase in prisoners due to mandatory sentencing laws, the O.D.C. decided to send a number of prisoners out of state. Seventy-eight women, including Barilee ended up at the Corrections Corporation of America's Central Arizona Detention Center in Florence. This facility was not set up to accommodate women prisoners. The all-male staff was quick to take advantage of their position of power over these women by forcing them to perform erotic acts for them when they weren't actually raping the prisoners. Women who tried to call this to the attention of the warden were subjected to particularly harsh retaliation. This was not a matter of a few bad apples abusing their authority. Somewhere between 27 (according to CCA staff) and 50 (according to the prisoners) guards joined in.

This is not a lone example of sexual abuse of women in prison. Women in Washington D.C.'s Department of Corrections reported they were forced to dance naked for the guards. This after the D.C. D.O.C. had settled a

lawsuit for \$8 million over sexual harassment of women prisoners. As is typical in such incidents, the women's complaints were not reported to law enforcement agencies or

to the proper courts. Instead, the women were identified to the staff as "todd months" and subjected to disciplinary action, like being put into segregation units - the hell having good time taken away and sometimes the women were fired, in addition to a continuation of even an escalation of their abuse.

How far will governments and prison officials go to protect their rapist guards? Rather than punishment for their crimes guards have sometimes been promoted, after being accused. The state legislature of Michigan even passed a law to prevent a lawsuit from being filed against the Michigan D.O.C. by victims of sexual abuse by M.D.O.C. staff.

All this has not gone unnoticed, even if the American public is, for the most part, unconcerned. Human Rights Watch has been documenting these abuses and has a report on the M.D.O.C. titled "Nowhere to Hide: Retaliation Against Women in Michigan State Prisons."

When Barilee and other women finally decided to take drastic action against CCA, to put an end to their torture and humiliation, their story created a media sensation, first in local Oregon newspapers, then on TV, until it exploded nationally. Eventually, the women were returned to Oregon and the CCA, fired or suspended three dozen staff members.

If this were a Hollywood story, Barilee would have been released due to massive public outrage and a sympathetic court system. In the real world, Barilee is still in prison, under the supervision of people whose jobs and careers she has put in jeopardy by standing up for her rights. She has been repeatedly told to keep quiet by the prison guards at O.W.C. If there are three words that can describe Barilee, though, they are "Fight, fight, and fight." Utterly unimintimidated, she continues to speak her mind and stand her ground.

This is where I enter the picture. As a lifelong activist, when mutual friends introduced us through the mail, I became not only outraged over her abuse but also impressed by her strong spirit. Her story became known to me over several months' correspondence. I told her I would try to get some outside support for her, which I did.

As an anarchist, activist and writer, I have a number of contacts in the anarchist community. One man in particular stands out in this part of the story: Anthony Rayson, one of the strongest supporters of anarchist and other prisoners in the U.S. He is Midwest Coordinator of the Political Prisoners of War Coalition and also participates in the Anarchist Black Cross - another support group that sends literature to prisoners.

Anthony sent Barilee letters of solidarity and reading material.

Alarmed that she was getting the attention of political activists outside, the administration quickly moved against Barilee. She was assigned to Security Threat Group (anarchist status - a designation used to keep gang members under closer supervision than general population prisoners. Since this was a new - not to mention fictitious - development, Barilee was put in the hole, had 12 days of accumulated good time reinstated to her sentence and was fined. She was also fired from her job. When another packet of literature from Anthony arrived, the O.W.C.C. rejected it as a security threat.

Then they threw Barilee - who had just been released from the hole - back into disciplinary segregation. She has been warned not to contact me or Anthony. She has also been instructed to stop referring to O.W.C.C. staff as "gestapo" in her letters.

Human Rights Watch's report - "All too Familiar: Sexual Abuse of Women in the U.S. State Prisons" - along with dozens of individual and class action lawsuits, suggests that sexual abuse of women prisoners is not only evident, but rampant in U.S. prisons. Estimates run as high as 70 to 80 percent of women prisoners experience sexual abuse.

The apathy of the general public to this horror has pushed some women prisoners to suicide, particularly in the states of Florida and Connecticut.

This lack of empathy from the outside is only a single symptom of a greater lack of concern about abuses of power by those supposedly in charge of upholding the law. The public has apparently failed to realize that increased penalties for a greater variety of crimes, along with the constant addition of new laws to the books, will do nothing to make their society safer and instead turn their "democratic" corporate state into a totalitarian police state.

Since the focus of spending for prisons has shifted to construction, prisons have cut back on programs intended to prepare the incarcerated for their return to society. Thus, the purpose of imprisonment has changed from rehabilitation to punishment. This partially explains why the public is disinterested in the abuse - sexual or otherwise - of prisoners. That, plus a willful stupidity. If it hasn't occurred to the voters of Oregon that sexual and physical abuse are learned cycles of behavior, they'll be figuring it out soon enough, as the first wave of Measure 11 offenders - victims of long, mandatory sentences (and abuse) - are released. Since so many (65%) victims of Measure 11 are young, first-time offenders, this portends a social catastrophe. What percentage of these first-time offenders will repeat the behavior they learned in prison upon their release? And what if efforts to head off this impending social disaster through educational and activist campaigns are successful? If probation is again an option to judges, juries and prosecutors, along with shorter sentences, there will be even less incentive to rehabilitate prisoners. The state will need repeat offenders to keep their prisons full. Before dismissing this notion as cynical paranoia, let me remind the reader that when a small Florida community learned the local industry would soon close, leaving 1,700 people without work, their solution to this problem was to build a 1,200-bed jail. Crime is a good prison and jail construction, you can bet they'll see to it that their money is well spent.

According to Texas prisoner I've been corresponding with, "...they're putting people in and they're not letting them out." Several states, including Texas and Oregon, now require prisoners due for release to take a psychological evaluation. Without explanation, a hearing or a chance to respond to the psychologist (rape-fies, the prison officials can extend the prisoners' stay" or two years, even if the prisoner has no history of disciplinary infractions or has not been found guilty of new crimes. This is illegal. The courts have instructed the O.D.C. that they have no authority to do this. They continue to do it anyway.

So, the prison staff abuses prisoners, rapes women prisoners, and the administration covers it up, condones it in extreme cases rewards the abuse by its staff - then takes disciplinary action against or extends the sentence of prisoners in retaliation if they take legal action to correct these abuses.

A recent federal inquiry into the abuse by police and prison staff (the Clinton Administration's report to the U.N. Committee Against Torture - 10/15/99) proudly announced that, though there are instances of abuse, they are aberrations and there are no signs of widespread human rights violations by the forces of order and power. Unlike the pulpit critics of the U.S., the rest of the world isn't buying Clinton's story. A Canadian judge recently refused to extradite a young man to the U.S., citing human rights considerations - the tolerance of homosexual rape among them - in the U.S. prisons as his reason.

My courageous friend Barilee's situation is a microcosm of everything wrong with this society. Sentenced for an incredibly harsh prison term for a relatively minor offense, she was shipped to a distant state where she was sexually abused, ignored by the administration of the for-profit institution when she reported the abuse, and then shipped back to Oregon where she was threatened with retaliation and finally dumped into the hole for continuing to speak up for herself. And so far, the administration and bureaucrats are able to get away with this because the citizens of Oregon don't care; many of them actually approve of the humiliation, beating and rape of prisoners.

Under red, white and blue fascism, the American people have been conditioned to love the powerful and hate themselves - objectified as "others." If the corporate state closes the local factories, and moves them to abroad, the media plays "America's Beautiful", the corporate leaders wave the flag and the politicians build prisons for the newly created underclass.

billions of private investment funds which consists of loans of \$39.5 million to Chad and \$53.4 million to Cameroon from the World Bank Group plus a \$115 million US loan to both countries. In Cameroon, the proposed pipeline traverses major rivers 17 times, passes through areas inhabited by the Baka and Bakola pygmy peoples and cuts into the country's Atlantic littoral forest; Cameroon already suffers one of the world's fastest rates of deforestation. The pipeline's terminal, in Kribi, is located in front of the Lobe waterfalls, one of the rare waterfalls that flow directly into the ocean. Kribi is nestled between two nature reserves and is presently devoid of reserves and is presently dependent on eco-tourism. The World Bank Group calls this project "an unprecedented framework to transform oil wealth into direct benefits for the poor, the vulnerable and the environment", but a study by Harvard Law School's human rights center found that only 40.5% of direct revenue will be spent on development in the affected communities. Also, the management structure for dispersing the funds is stacked with local elite figures. Human rights groups in Chad and Cameroon point out that their governments have little or no commitment to development and will use the funds to strengthen their capacity for repression.

## COTONOU, BENIN

On Tuesday, June 27, Benin's autonomous workers trade unions called for a 48-hour strike following a breakdown in negotiations with the government over measures to help the population cope with the rise in the price of petroleum products. At the beginning of June, the government decided to raise the prices of petroleum products by between 35% and 75%. Benin depends on neighboring Nigeria for most of its oil supply, where the government's decision to hike prices of oil products earlier in the month sparked a nation-wide strike.

## VIQUEQUES, PUERTO RICO

On Thursday, May 4, at 5:30 am U.S. federal authorities began to arrest the people conducting civil disobedience in Viqueques. The activists had been protesting the presence of the U.S. military in Viqueques and the use of the small island for the practice maneuvers of the U.S. navy. For nearly sixty years the island and surrounding area has been bombed and shelled as part of combat training for navy personnel. The people of Viqueques took back their land for one full year where they prevented the bombing of the island. The U.S. government's response to the demands for human rights of the people of Viqueques was a military invasion of Viqueques that was met with no resistance by the protesters that from the outset had vowed to non-violent civil disobedience. In addition to the civil disobedience, other actions have been taking place to raise awareness on the situation in Viqueques, including a show of support by Boricua hackers Sabu and p0rn0k, who hacked and defaced 34 Puerto Rican web sights to show solidarity with the civil disobedience protesters.



*In short, Anarchism means a condition or society where all men and women are free, and where all enjoy equally the benefits of an ordered and sensible life.*

*"Can that be?" you ask, "and how?"*

*"Not before we all become angels," your friend remarks.*

*Well, let us talk it over. Maybe I can show you that we can be decent and live as decent folks even without growing wings.*



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